Pending proposal for gauge conversion

1753. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongchalek section of NF Railway is pending with Planning Commission for clearance; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The proposal relating to 'in principle' approval of the gauge conversion of Rangia–Murkongchalek section of NF Railway was examined and comments of the Planning Commission have already been sent to the Ministry of Railways.

Tenth Five Year Plan

†1754. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 314 given in Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 2002 and state whether it is a fact that the period of the Tenth Plan commences from April 2002 and the budget for the year 2002-2003 was also prepared in accordance with the draft of Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): The period of the Tenth Five Year Plan commences from April 2002. The Annual Plan 2002-03, marks the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) and has been prepared in line with the mandate of the National Development Council (NDC) outlined in the Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan, which also forms the base for the draft Tenth Plan.

Unemployed Persons

†1755. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the unemployed persons in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the policies/measures/suggestions/directions formulated/given by the Central Government to the State Governments to eliminate unemployment from the country?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) State-wise incidence of unemployment is given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) The Prime Minister announced to the Nation that the Government is committed to create 10 crore employment opportunities over a period of ten eyars. Planning Commission constituted a Special Group on targeting ten million employment opportunities per year under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member (Labour Employment & Manpower), Planning Commission. The Special Group has identified the labour intensive sectors, which should be developed to create employment opportunities. These sectors include agriculture, watershed development, on farm water management, small and medium industries, information technology, education and health services.

The Report of the Special Group has been sent to all the State Governments.

Statement

Current Daily Status Unemployment Rates for Selected States (1999-2000)

States	Unemployment Rate (per cent of labour force)	
	Rural	Urban
Andhra Pradesh	8.1	7.6
Assam	7.4	11.9
Bihar	7.0	9.3
Gujarat	4.8	4.2
Haryana	4.7	4.5
Himachal Pradesh	2.4	7.8
Karnataka	4.3	5.4
Kerala	21.7	19.1
Madhya Pradesh	3.8	7.0
Maharashtra	6.5	8.1
Orissa	7.1	9.5
Punjab	3.7	4.9
Rajasthan	2.8	4.5
Tamil Nadu	13.5	8.9
Uttar Pradesh	3.6	6.2
West Bengal	17.0	10.6
ALL INDIA	**7.1**	**7.7**

SOURCE: NSSO Survey (55th Round) on Employment and Unemployment, 1999-2000